

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed September 12, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 21, 2000; and July 8, 2002.

Claims 20-24 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claim 24 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 22 has been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 20, 21 and 23 and the indication of the allowability of claim 22 (page 4, Paper No. 09062005). Accordingly, claims 20-23 are now pending in the present application, of which claim 20 is independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

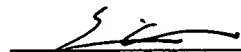
Paragraph 1 of the Official Action objects to claims 22 and 24 for informalities. As noted above, claim 24 has been canceled. Regarding claim 22, the Official Action asserts that it is not clear "what is considered to be the 'ellipsoidal spot area of said real light source'" (page 2, Id.). In response, the term "ellipsoidal spot area" has been changed to "elliptic light spot." In general, the "light spot" means a small rounded area illuminated with light. If a given plane is illuminated with a light beam projected perpendicularly onto the plane, a completely round light spot would be created. Whereas, if the light beam is projected obliquely onto the plane, then a light spot having an elliptic shape (as opposed to a completely round shape) would be created. Also, the feature recited in claim 22 is supported by the descriptions in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 12-23 and page 13, lines 5-16. The Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 22, when read in light of the specification, is clear and definite. If the Examiner requires any further clarification as to the meaning of claim 22,

the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are in order and respectfully requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claim 24 as obvious based on U.S. Patent No. 5,751,679 to Yamakawa et al. In response, independent claim 24 has been canceled. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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